(b) whether it is a fact that her name was referred on 29th November, 1999, to the National Awards Committee for consideration of National award; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The recommendations for award to Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President.

The recommendsation for conferment of Bharat Ratna on Mataji Nirmala Devi referred to the Awards Committee, was forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office in December, 1999 for appropriate action.

Sophisticated arms for NE Millitant from ISI

3422. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the insurgent groups of the NE States are collecting sophisticated arms from ISI and other foreign agencies; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far to stop illegal collection of arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Governments of Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh have been sensitised. As per available reports, these are the countries from and through which illegal flow of arms to the North Eastern States is taking place. Actionable intelligence is also being shared with these countries on a continuing basis. Other steps taken in this regard include gearing up of intelligence machinery and strengthening of the Border Security Force/Assam Rifles on the Indo-Bangladesh/Indo-Myanmar border.

Complaint lodged with the North Avenue Police Station

†3423. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) the number of complainmts received at the police station, North Avenue from the Members of Parliament and ex-Members of Parliament regarding theft an other matters;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.